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CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Sneezes Are Dangerous.

A Health Talk Radiocast from Station KGO,
Oakland, March 16, 1925.

Riding in a crowded passenger elevator is a dangerous undertaking if one or more of the passengers are suffering from common colds. Whether a man takes off his hat in the elevator or not is a matter of little moment in so far as health is concerned, but if he sneezes or coughs in the faces of his fellow passengers it is a matter of prime importance. Of course the same holds true in street cars or any other crowded public conveyance. Men, for some unknown reason, remove their hats when riding upon elevators in business buildings, but they do not remove their hats when riding in street cars. They are equally liberal and generous in sneezing and coughing in fellow passengers' faces when riding in either type of public conveyance. Persons who ride in crowded passenger elevators, if they are suffering from common colds, should cover their noses and mouths with clean handkerchiefs. This is the least that they can do for the protection of others. There seems to be no way of overcoming the crowded conditions in public conveyances:—it is therefore very important that every occupant of an elevator or a street car should use every possible precaution against receiving or transmitting the infection of a common cold.

Most of the health warnings issued during past years have dealt with the dangers from spitting in public places. As a mat-

ter of fact, in these days of short skirts, there is much less danger from spitting in public places than there is from sneezing and coughing in public places. Posters warning against spitting are freely scattered in conspicuous places, but one seldom encounters any warning against coughing and sneezing in public places.

When a person sneezes or coughs with open, uncovered mouth the sputum is sprayed into the air under circumstances that specially favor its reception upon the sensitive mucuous membranes of persons who may be close by. Some hygienists say that an uncovered sneeze casts its germ-laden spray fully ten feet beyond the face of the sneezer, and it is reasonable to suppose that the danger zone covers an area that lies within at least ten feet of the person who sneezes. If the sneezer or cougher is thoughtful enough to carefully cover his nose and mouth, the danger zone may become reduced to practically nothing. There is much more than courtesy involved in this matter. It is truly a health menace of no inconsiderable proportion. Open-faced sneezing and open-mouthed coughing in public places are, properly speaking, misdemeanors of the first order. An attorney, in writing upon this subject, said recently: "Why does public opinion make so much of ordinary assaults which result in transitory bruises and make nothing of assault by sneezing. In the last five years I have received twenty colds from being sneezed on in public places. Can't something be done to emphasize the danger of sneezing on people as well as the danger of expectorating on floors?"

More Reports of Cases of Venereal Diseases.

An increase in the number of cases of venereal disease reported in the United States in the year which ended June 30, 1924, over the number reported in the previous corresponding year is disclosed by the figures recently made public in the annual report of the Division of Venereal Diseases of the United States Public Health Service. The report indicates that the increase in the fiscal year 1924 amounts to 27,382 cases, or 7.2 per cent. A total of 363,063 cases of venereal disease were reported to the various state boards of health from all sources. This total was composed of 193,844 cases of syphilis, 160,790 cases of gonorrhea, and 8429 cases of chancroid.

"The fact that the 1924 statistics show an increase over those for 1923 does not necessarily mean that venereal disease was any more prevalent in the United States last year than in the year before," explains the Chief of the Division of Venereal Diseases.

"The greater number of cases now on record at the state boards of health," he continues, "may well be accounted for by the increased efficiency in detecting these maladies and by more conscientious reporting of cases on the part of private physicians. For a long time the danger from syphilis and gonorrhea was greatly enhanced by the fact that these diseases were carefully covered and concealed and were often kept secret even from physicians who might have brought about a cure. Fortunately people are now learning that they must go to a reputable physician or clinic if they wish to be cured, and laws requiring that these cases be reported to the state boards of health are making it possible to obtain some idea as to the prevalence of syphilis and gonorrhea in the country, although there are many cases that still escape discovery."

During the fiscal year just passed, 504 public clinics reported to the state boards. These clinics treated 118,023 new cases of venereal disease made up of 65,046 cases of syphilis, 49,029 cases of gonorrhea, and 3949 cases of chancroid. A total of 2,147,087 treatments were given. The fact that these clinics made 302,152 Wassermann tests for detecting syphilis and 203,008 examinations to discover gonorrhea would seem to indicate that people are beginning to realize the terrible

consequences that follow in the wake of these diseases and are willing to take advantage of reputable opportunities for cure.

Reports from 37 correctional and penal institutions were received by the Division. The efforts of those in charge of these institutions have resulted in a large increase in the number of venereally diseased persons discovered and treated. New patients to the number of 7045 were admitted to treatment in 1924, an increase of 44 per cent over the year 1923.

The menace of venereal disease is one that is being fought by the United States Public Health Service and the various state boards of health acting in cooperation with municipal health officers. These governmental agencies are trying to impress upon parents, teachers, young people and others the need of wholesome sex education, of prompt medical attention and the necessity for the passage of modern health ordinances and legislation. Among the social institutions which can aid in the fulfillment of this program are the home, the school, the church and the press.



Colds Are the Baby's Enemy.

Investigation of a group of 251 outpatient cases in the baby clinic at Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York, showed that colds and respiratory infections constituted the leading diseases. The basic causes of these ailments were frequently found to be too heavy clothing, lack of sunlight and fresh air, and other unhygienic conditions. Over 90 per cent of the infants showed evidence of rickets.

The study showed that mothers are now bringing their babies to the clinics at a much younger age than previously, and before their ailments become serious. Only 15 per cent of the 14-week-old babies were found to be underweight. In general, the older the infant the higher the percentage of underweight.



Probation Is Economy.

Money is saved to taxpayers through the use of the probation system for child delinquents, Indiana statistics show. In that state the annual saving to a county under the probation method as compared with institutional care for children is \$274 per child. Probation means that children are placed in good homes and supervised by trained probation officers, instead of being sent to reformatories or delinquent institutions.

Los Angeles County Health Unit Covers Wide Territory.

Most of the incorporated cities within Los Angeles County have entered into contract with the Los Angeles County Health Department to provide them with public health services. Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, County Health Officer, has jurisdiction over the administration of public health affairs in these cities. District health officers have been appointed, who are in direct charge of specified territory. In addition, a large staff of public health nurses, sanitary inspectors, dental hygienists and other workers are employed. Following is a list of cities in Los Angeles County whose health affairs are now administered by the county health department, together with the names of former local health officers as well as the names of the district health officers who have supplanted them:

Compton City—Dr. E. I. Mulder, old health officer; Dr. E. M. Burns, district health officer.

Huntington Park—Dr. Thomas J. De Vaughan, old health officer; Dr. E. M. Burns, district health officer.

South Gate—Dr. Charles H. Wilson, old health officer; Dr. E. M. Burns, district health officer.

Alhambra—Dr. S. J. Stewart, old health officer; Dr. S. J. Stewart, district health officer.

El Monte—Dr. B. B. Bolton, old health officer; Dr. S. J. Stewart, district health officer.

San Gabriel—Mr. L. D. Rogers, old health officer; Dr. S. J. Stewart, district health officer.

Hermosa Beach—Dr. C. F. Schmid, old health officer; Dr. A. S. Baker, district health officer.

El Segundo—Harold A. Young, old health officer; Dr. A. S. Baker, district health officer.

Manhattan Beach—Llewellyn Price, old health officer; Dr. A. S. Baker, district health officer.

Redondo Beach—Dr. A. C. Hembree, old health officer; Dr. A. S. Baker, district health officer.

Torrance—Dr. J. S. Lancaster, old health officer; Dr. A. S. Baker, district health officer.

Pomona—Dr. E. F. Fontaine, old health officer; Dr. E. F. Fontaine, district health officer.

Glendora—Dr. E. F. Fontaine, old health officer; Dr. E. F. Fontaine, district health officer.

La Verne—Dr. E. F. Fontaine, old health officer; Dr. E. F. Fontaine, district health officer.

San Fernando—Dr. F. D. Facey, old health officer; Dr. F. D. Facey, district health officer.

Whittier—Dr. O. O. Young, old health officer; Dr. O. O. Young, district health officer.

Monrovia—Dr. J. M. Furstman, old health officer; Dr. J. M. Furstman, district health officer.

Covina—Mr. J. J. Saunders, old health officer; Dr. J. M. Furstman, district health officer.

Vermont Accepts Maternity and Infant Welfare Act.

The Vermont legislature voted during the last week in February to accept the provisions of the Federal Maternity and Infancy Act, bringing the total number of states cooperating with the national government under this act up to 42.



LIST OF DISEASES REPORTABLE BY LAW.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ANTHRAX | MUMPS |
| BERI-BERI | OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM |
| BOTULISM | PARATYPHOID FEVER |
| CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic) | PELLAGRA |
| CHICKENPOX | PLAGUE |
| CHOLERA, ASIATIC | PNEUMONIA |
| DENGUE | POLIOMYELITIS |
| DIPHTHERIA | RABIES |
| DYSENTERY | ROCKY MOUNTAIN |
| ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic) | SPOTTED (or Tick) FEVER |
| ERYSIPELAS | SCARLET FEVER |
| FLUKES | SMALLPOX |
| FOOD POISONING | SYPHILIS* |
| GERMAN MEASLES | TETANUS |
| GLANDERS | TRACHOMA |
| GONOCOCCUS INFECTION* | TUBERCULOSIS |
| HOOKWORM | TYPHOID FEVER |
| INFLUENZA | TYPHUS FEVER |
| JAUNDICE, INFECTIOUS | WHOOPING COUGH |
| LEPROSY | YELLOW FEVER |
| MALARIA | |
| MEASLES | |

QUARANTINABLE DISEASES.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic) | POLIOMYELITIS |
| CHOLERA, ASIATIC | SCARLET FEVER |
| DIPHTHERIA | SMALLPOX |
| ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic) | TYPHOID FEVER |
| LEPROSY | TYPHUS FEVER |
| PLAGUE | YELLOW FEVER |

Section 16. Public Health Act. All physicians, nurses, clergymen, attendants, owners, proprietors, managers, employees, and persons living in or visiting any sick person in any hotel, lodging house, house, building, office, structure, or other place where any person shall be ill of any infectious, contagious, or communicable disease, shall promptly report such fact to the county, city and county, city, or other local health board or health officer, together with the name of the person, if known, and place where such person is confined, and nature of the disease, if known.

*Reported by office number. Name and address not required.



MORBIDITY.*

Diphtheria.

130 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 28, Los Angeles County 11, Hermosa Beach 6, Whittier 6, Glendale 4, Alhambra 2, Redwood City 1, Modesto 1, Anaheim 1, Tulare County 2, Stanislaus County 1, Turlock 1, Mountain View 1, Bakersfield 3, Santa Barbara County 1, Redondo Beach 2, Merced 1, Berkeley 2, Yuba County 1, Colton 2, Orange County 3, Santa Ana 1, Sonoma County 1, Sacramento 1, Alameda 2, Burbank 4, Pacific Grove 1, Monterey County 1, Oakland 3, Santa Clara County 3, Alameda County 1, Albany 1, San Joaquin County 1, Hawthorne 1, Fresno County 1, Santa Cruz 1, Pasadena 3, Long Beach 2, Fresno 1, Stockton 2, San Diego 2, Kern County 3, Lindsay 1, Modoc County 1.

*From reports received on March 16th and 17th for week ending March 14th.

Scarlet Fever.

161 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 41, Long Beach 20, San Jose 10, San Francisco 11, Los Angeles County 11, San Joaquin County 6, Oakland 5, Fresno County 5, Redlands 5, South Pasadena 1, Monterey County 1, Ontario 2, Stockton 1, San Diego 1, Santa Clara County 1, Santa Barbara 3, Pomona 2, Redondo Beach 1, Fresno 1, San Diego County 1, Watsonville 1, Palo Alto 1, Hermosa Beach 2, Solano County 1, Venice 1, Sonoma County 2, Sacramento 1, San Gabriel 1, Alhambra 3, Redwood City 1, El Monte 1, Orange County 1, Anaheim 1, Tulare County 4, Placer County 4, Kern County 3, Monterey County 3, Kings County 1.

Measles.

60 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 20, Los Angeles County 10, Huntington Park 5, San Francisco 11, Pasadena 1, Long Beach 1, San Joaquin County 1, San Fernando 1, Berkeley 1, Santa Barbara 1, Monrovia 1, Yolo County 1, Orange County 1, Humboldt County 1, El Monte 2, Oakland 1, Dinuba 1.

Smallpox.

127 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 44, San Diego 13, Los Angeles County 7, San Francisco 5, Oakland 10, Glendora 5, Sacramento 5, King City 5, Placerville 1, Long Beach 2, Stockton 1, San Jose 1, Eureka 1, Santa Barbara 2, Monterey County 2, Fresno 2, Redondo Beach 1, San Diego County 4, Orange County 2, Alhambra 1, Tulare County 1, Riverbank 1, El Monte 1, Orcutt 1, Yuba City 2, Anaheim 1, Yuba County 3, Kern County 2, Ventura County 1.

Whooping Cough.

319 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 77, Los Angeles County 45, San Francisco 38, Stockton 18, Santa Clara County 6, San Joaquin County 23, San Diego 11, Fresno County 8, Berkeley 15, Pasadena 5, Monterey County 7, Oakland 5, Monrovia 6, Tulare County 2, Napa 4, Salinas 1, Napa County 1, Merced County 1, South Gate 4, Whittier 3, San Luis Obispo County 4, Paso Robles 3, Sonoma 3, Glendale 2, San Jose 4, South Pasadena 1, Tracy 1, Long Beach 2, Pomona 2, Mountain View 3, Riverside 3, Santa Monica 2, Lindsay 2, Kings County 1, Signal Hill 2, Corona 3, Madera 1.

Typhoid Fever.

7 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 1, Colusa 1, Alameda County 1, Colusa County 1, Orange County 1, Long Beach 1, Siskiyou County 1.

Epidemic Meningitis.

1 case of epidemic meningitis has been reported from Pacific Grove.

Poliomyelitis.

3 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Los Angeles 2.

Epidemic Encephalitis.

2 cases of encephalitis have been reported, as follows: Orange County 1, San Diego 1.

Jaundice (Epidemic).

1 case of jaundice has been reported from San Francisco.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT.

| Disease | 1925 | | | | 1924 | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|---|-------------|---------|---------|---|
| | Week ending | | | Reports for week ending March 14 received by March 17 | Week ending | | | Reports for week ending March 15 received by March 18 |
| | Feb. 21 | Feb. 28 | March 7 | | Feb. 23 | March 1 | March 8 | |
| Anthrax..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chickenpox..... | 368 | 442 | 525 | 366 | 463 | 688 | 440 | 479 |
| Diphtheria..... | 126 | 122 | 132 | 130 | 229 | 274 | 277 | 249 |
| Dysentery (Bacillary)..... | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Epidemic Encephalitis..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Epidemic Meningitis..... | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Epidemic Jaundice..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gonorrhoea..... | 211 | 105 | 70 | 82 | 75 | 103 | 117 | 148 |
| Influenza..... | 160 | 113 | 125 | 146 | 25 | 49 | 49 | 33 |
| Leprosy..... | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Malaria..... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Measles..... | 60 | 49 | 76 | 60 | 1,367 | 1,606 | 1,620 | 1,289 |
| Mumps..... | 258 | 222 | 246 | 291 | 39 | 90 | 66 | 53 |
| Pneumonia..... | 95 | 81 | 58 | 64 | 61 | 285 | 70 | 70 |
| Poliomyelitis..... | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Scarlet Fever..... | 151 | 146 | 186 | 161 | 294 | 289 | 318 | 278 |
| Smallpox..... | 184 | 183 | 146 | 127 | 383 | 366 | 252 | 286 |
| Syphilis..... | 212 | 137 | 123 | 150 | 106 | 127 | 151 | 209 |
| Tuberculosis..... | 288 | 132 | 194 | 147 | 169 | 228 | 266 | 221 |
| Typhoid Fever..... | 8 | 3 | 15 | 7 | 32 | 29 | 76 | 14 |
| Whooping Cough..... | 151 | 240 | 286 | 319 | 155 | 105 | 52 | 33 |
| Totals..... | 2268 | 1980 | 2192 | 2060 | 3410 | 4252 | 3763 | 3367 |

CALIFORNIA STATE PRINTING OFFICE

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